<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action

dated November 5, 2003 (Paper No. 23). Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 55 to 58,

67, 68 and 77 to 79 are currently in the application, with Claims 77 to 79 having been

added and Claims 22 to 25, 27, 28, 30 to 33, 35, 36, 39 to 41, 43, 45 to 47, 49, 59 to 66 and

69 to 76 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter

contained therein. Claims 55 to 58, 67 and 68 are the current independent claims.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5, 12, 14, 55, 57, 59 and 67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,740,368 (Villalpando); Claims 27, 28, 35, 36, 61 to 63 and

69 were rejected under § 103(a) over Villalpando in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,700,003

(Sung); Claims 2, 7, 9, 11, 16, 18, 56, 58, 60 and 68 were rejected under § 103(a) over

Villalpando in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,791,790 (Bender); Claims 22 to 25 and 30 to 33

were rejected under § 103(a) over Villalpando in view of Sung and further in view of U.S.

Patent No. 5,859,956 (Sugiyama); Claims 39 to 41, 43, 45 to 47, 49, 64 to 66 and 70 were

rejected under § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,812,745 (Kim) in view of Sugiyama; and

Claims 71 to 76 were rejected under § 103(a) over Villalpando in view of U.S. Patent No.

5,740,513 (Matsuo). Without conceding the correctness of the foregoing rejections,

Applicants have canceled Claims 22 to 25, 27, 28, 30 to 33, 35, 36, 39 to 41, 43, 45 to 47,

49, 59 to 66 and 69 to 76, thereby rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

With respect to the claims remaining in the application, Applicants have

considered the Examiner's comments together with the applied references and respectfully

submit that the claims herein are patentably distinguishable over the applied references for
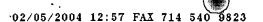
at least the following reasons.

Independent Claims 55, 57 and 67 concern controlling a printing unit used

to print data corresponding to a print job. When a condition of the printing unit has

changed, a signal is received indicating that a condition has changed. In response to the

signal, the condition of the printing unit is acquired and it is determined whether the

change in the condition of the printing unit corresponds to a power-OFF notice. If it is

determined that the change in condition of the printing unit corresponds to the power-OFF

notice, an external apparatus is informed that a power supply is scheduled to be turned off.

The applied references are not seen to disclose the foregoing features of the

present invention. In particular, the applied references are not seen to disclose at least the

feature of acquiring a condition of a printing unit in response to receiving a signal from the

printing unit indicating that a condition of the printing unit has changed.

Villalpando concerns a system for transferring information on a managed

peripheral device to an external network node. The Office Action has contended that the

device controller 220 depicted in Figure 2 of Villalpando receives a condition change

signal indicating that a condition of an engine unit has changed and acquires contents of a

new condition upon reception of the condition change signal. Applicants respectfully

disagree with this interpretation of Villalpando.

Column 4, lines 31 to 34, of Villalpando indicates that printer status

information is transferred from the printer controller 220 to the device interface 209.

However, Villalpando is not seen to describe how the printer status information is obtained

by the printer controller. In particular, nothing in Villalpando is seen to describe the printer

controller receiving a signal indicating that a condition of the printer has changed, nor is
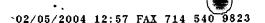
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Villalpando seen to describe the printer controller acquiring the printer status information in response to receiving such a signal.

Sung, Bender, Sugiyama, Kim and Matsuo, which were applied in the rejections of certain other claims in the application, are not seen to disclose or suggest anything to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Villalpando. In particular, these references, either alone or in combination, are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of acquiring a condition of a printing unit in response to receiving a signal from the printing unit indicating that a condition of the printing unit has changed.

Accordingly, independent Claims 55, 57 and 67 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of Claims 55, 57 and 67 are respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 56, 58 and 68 also concern controlling a printing unit used to print data corresponding to a print job. When a condition of the printing unit has changed, a signal is received from the printing unit indicating that a condition has changed. In response to the signal, the condition of the printing unit is acquired and it is determined whether a change in the condition of the printing unit corresponds to a power-OFF notice. When it is determined that the change in condition corresponds to a power-OFF notice, information on a print job that has not been completed is stored in a nonvolatile storage medium. When power is resumed after information on a print job that has not been completed is stored in the nonvolatile storage medium and power has been turned off, information on the print job is supplied to the external apparatus on the basis of the information stored in the nonvolatile storage medium.

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The applied references are not seen disclose or suggest the foregoing features of the present invention. In particular, the applied references are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of storing information on a print job that has not been completed when it is determined that a condition of a printing unit corresponds to a power-OFF notice, and supplying information on the print job to an external apparatus on the basis of the stored information when power is resumed.

As discussed above with respect to Claims 55, 57 and 67, Villalpando is not seen to disclose the feature of acquiring a condition of a printing unit in response to receiving a signal from the printing unit indicating that a condition of the printing unit has changed. Furthermore, and as conceded in the Office Action, Villalpando is not seen to disclose the feature of supplying information on an incomplete print job to an external apparatus on the basis of information stored in a nonvolatile storage medium when a power supply is turned on. Therefore, Villalpando is not seen to disclose the features of storing information on a print job that has not been completed when it is determined that a condition of a printing unit corresponds to a power-OFF notice, and supplying information on the print job to an external apparatus on the basis of the stored information when power is resumed.

Bender is not understood to disclose or suggest anything to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Villalpando. Bender concerns a printer that provides print job buffering. Specifically, as described in column 4, lines 46 and 47, the printer in Bender stores all print job data in a non-volatile memory. In this manner, Bender can recover stored print jobs in the event of a power failure. However, Bender is not understood to disclose that the print job data is stored in the memory when a determination has been
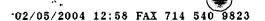
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made that a condition of the printer corresponds to a power-OFF notice. Rather, Bender unconditionally stores all print job data received by the printer.

In addition, Bender is not understood to disclose or suggest that an external apparatus is supplied information on an incomplete print job on the basis of information stored in memory when power is resumed after a power failure. Column 4, line 64, to column 5, line 10, describe that upon power restoration printing of the incomplete print job is simply completed. While Bender does describe in column 4, lines 53 to 60, informing a host computer when buffering of a print job from the host computer has been completed, this is not understood to occur after power has been resumed after a power failure. This messaging to the host computer in Bender is understood to be simply an acknowledgment of receipt of the print job to assure the host computer that printing will occur regardless of any subsequent power failures.

Therefore, Bender, either along or in combination with Villalpando, is not understood to disclose or suggest at least the features of storing information on a print job that has not been completed when it is determined that a condition of a printing unit corresponds to a power-OFF notice, and supplying information on the print job to an external apparatus on the basis of the stored information when power is resumed.

Sung, Sugiyama, Kim and Matsuo, which were applied in the rejections of certain other claims in the application, are not seen to disclose or suggest anything to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Bender and Villalpando. In particular, these references are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of storing information on a print job that has not been completed when it is determined that a condition of a printing

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unit corresponds to a power-OFF notice, and supplying information on the print job to an external apparatus on the basis of the stored information when power is resumed.

Accordingly, independent Claims 56, 58 and 68 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of Claims 56, 58 and 68 are respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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